Mat-Su Monitor

December 2015 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 3

Dance Pics PAGE 8

Club News PAGE 11

The Second King Part IV | PAGE 3

Ask Sophia PAGE 10

How to Rock Your Finals Week:

Study advice from your MSC Student Ambassadors

By Nick Phillips

Tip #1: Know what dates your finals are on. Plan your time to study for them accordingly.

- Know the nights/days you'll need to study on.
- Prioritize your free time. Seeing the new Charlie Brown movie may sound like a good idea, but not if you don't understand how to factor the polynomials that will be on your exam.

Continued on page 2

Caffeine is Coming!

By Nick Phillips & Michelle Sharpe

In a brief discussion with new Theater House Specialist, Scott Taylor, it was revealed that the Glenn Massay Theater is in negotiation with Kaladi Brothers Coffee Company to establish a coffee stand on campus.

It is still too early to reveal too many details, but according to Taylor, the theater will hopefully be offering Kaladi Brothers sometime in the upcoming semester. He hopes that a coffee stand will increase student activity at the Glenn Massay Theater, and will serve as "a little bit of an escape" for busy students. With the quiet atmosphere, natural lighting, a great view of campus, and wifi, the Glenn Massay Theater could be an excellent spot to relax – and hopefully – enjoy a nice latte.

Have any questions? Check out upcoming events at the Glenn Massay Theater's website. Better yet, head on over to the theater and get to know our new theater employee, Scott Taylor!

Upcoming events:

December 3: Student Ambassadors host Cookie Break in the Atrium.

December 7-11: Student Government Snack Break; snacks and refreshments provided in the Atrium.

December 9-14: Textbook Buyback in Campus Cache.

December 12: semester ends.

December 17: grades available on UAOnline.

December 24-January 3: campus closed.

January 6: New Student Orientation; contact Student Services to register if you are an incoming freshman.

January 11: classes begin.

January 18: Alaska Civil Rights Day; campus closed, no classes.

Club meeting times:

Alaska Native Cultures Club: Mondays, 11:50 AM-12:50 PM. FSM 201.

Dance Club: Thursdays, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater.

Game Designer's Club: Thursdays, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM; Fridays, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM. JKB 114.

Gamer's Club: Mondays, 11:30 AM-3:00 PM; Tuesdays, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM. Library room 214.

Mat-Su Monitor: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 PM-12:50 PM. Library room 213.

You Deserve a Scholarship! Apply for one today!

by Lori Leahy

College can be stressful. The challenge of classwork, homework, writing papers, and a myriad of other requirements to get a decent grade can be daunting. On top of that is the juggling act paying for all of that madness. Some students choose to go to school slowly and pay for their education along the way. Others get student loans or Pell Grants. Another option to consider is scholarships. Did you realize that scholarships are free, and just waiting for you, the student, to come and claim them?

Korry Dunham, the Financial Aid Officer here at Mat-Su College has some great suggestions for applying for scholarships. Firstly, she says to apply early. Don't put it off until the last minute. If you think you might want to apply for a scholarship, make an appointment and either she or Jaclyn Cabales in the Financial Aid office will help you get started with the applications.

Secondly, put in as many applications as you have time for. The more scholarships you apply for, the better your chances of getting one. The scholarship committees only have limited money to spend each year, so the

Continued on page 9

Image credit: https://www.benefits.va.gov/

VA Home Ownership Loan Program

By Xontippie Whittington

Veterans that qualify can get a home loan with great benefits. This program gives the opportunity of homeownership to millions of Veterans who wouldn't otherwise qualify for conventional financing. When combined, the benefits of the VA mortgage allow service members and Veterans to take advantage of substantial cost savings under qualification requirements designed specifically for members of the military and their unique needs. There is no prepayment penalty and you can make extra payments any time you want. If your budget allows an extra $100 per month can shave tens of thousands of dollars and years from the balance. Veterans are guaranteed:

- Lower payments
- Current competitive interest rates
- No private mortgage insurance
- No down payment
- Easier qualifications
- Relaxed credit standards

Find out if you qualify by visiting https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage . On the home page there is a link titled "Certificate of Eligibility for Home Loan." Click that and then follow the prompts to complete the online application to see if you qualify.

At a quick glance at the common eligibility standards are as follows:

- You served 90 consecutive days of active service during wartime, or
- You served 181 days of active service during peacetime, or
- You served more than 6 years in the National Guard or Reserves, or
- You are the spouse of a service member who has died in the line of duty or as a result of a service-related disability.

If you already own a home you can still reap Veteran benefits. They can streamline refinance your existing home loan with a new loan and a lower interest rate. Veterans can opt to *Cash-Out* which gives the borrower the option to use the equity of the home as cash, if needed.

If interested go to https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ or contact a local Veterans representative to see the Home Ownership benefits that await you!

Finals Tips *continued from page 1*

Tip #2: Get enough sleep, and eat well.

- Sleep deprivation is a form of torture. Why would you torture yourself before a final?
- Eat well so you have fuel to push through your finals. Nothing is worse is a growling stomach as you try to focus in on your exams.

Tip #3: Find a study technique and that works for you. Common study strategies include:

- Making flashcards.
- Assembling study guides.
- Make study groups with other classmates.

Tip #4: Study breaks are good (in moderation).

- If you study hard for a good 45 minutes to 1 hour, give yourself a break. Your brain will thank you.
- To increase your focus, log out of your Facebook, turn off your phone. It's only temporary.

Tip #5: Seek help or clarification if you need it!

- You need help with a tricky math concepts? Need advice on constructing a strong introductory paragraph? Check out the Learning Resource Center for tutors.
- Not sure how your exam will be delivered? Ask your instructor. Ask for concepts or topics that you might need to study beforehand.

Tip # 6: Take your time!

- Take your time, but also consider any potential time restrictions your instructor might have for a test.
- Don't worry about people finishing earlier before you. Be confident in your knowledge!
- When you finish your final, pat yourself on the back and give yourself a little break.

We're not going to wish you luck on your finals, because these tips will help you more than any luck can. After you finish your finals, enjoy the holiday break. See you next semester!

When you need a hand...

By Art Corvelay

As the nights get longer and colder you should know that there are people on campus whose job is your safety.

For a third year the college has contracted with a security company to place a guard on campus. This security guard can handle reports of lost property or suspicious behavior, for instance, and can also escort you to your car at night. For help visit the security station in the FSM building or call 761-3436.

staff can help you in many cases.

The college's own Physical Plant (i.e., maintenance) staff can also help you in many cases. They are able to open locked car doors or jumpstart dead batteries. You can get ahold of Physical Plant by stopping at the security station in FSM or by calling them directly at 907-745-9789.

And remember -- you have a part to play, too! Remember the phrase "if you see see something, say something." Report to Physical Plant any safety hazards, even if they're as seemingly-harmless as icy spots.

The Second King: Part Five of Seven

By Brian Conaway

[Editor's note: the previous installments of this riveting tale can be found in March, April, October, and November 2015 issues of the Monitor, which are posted online at http://matsu.alaska.edu/news/mat-su-monitor-newspaper/]

Bennevon

236 B.W.C.
Before War of Calamities

They had been waiting in silence for some days now, ready at every moment for Kuzuhhukkani to finally arrive at this decrepit fortress at the crossroads of the north kingdoms. Apparently he was the only Giant who remained. The rest were much too stupid to seal any alliances backed by ambitions. They had stripped Aermenos clean of resources in a matter of a hundred years. *How much longer shall men last in this world of ours?*

From his perch far above the pine forest valley on this side of the mountains, Benn watched the sun rise for the fifth time since they had made camp here. Still there was minimal movement in the trees; he would see their quarry coming from miles away. *Perhaps some Akaii have slain him already?* Despite how many times he posed the question, he never came any closer to believing it. This brute was desperate to survive, and would go to dangerous lengths to do so with his captive on hand. *What is it like to be the very last of one's kind? How frightened must he be?*

The trees did not shift ahead of him and nothing moved behind him. But someone was here with him on this precipice.

"Show yourself," he said into the thin air.

"It is in my masters' will that I do not as kings bid, but as he alone commands," was the ghastly answer from a mouth unseen. "I have a summons from him to thee, Second King." Bennevon remained alert. *The Nameless are here.*

"Come ye to the Wild Isles of our Master's captivity. He hast words for thine ears alone. Though you are not worthy of his attention, thy meddling hast won it." Benn inferred a thick trace of envy.

"Have I truly meddled?" he asked. "I do not trouble kingdoms with the Accursed Art."

"I make no confession to your *accusations,* thou Second King; I have no need to. Go hence to the Wild Isles, lest thou desires for thy dreams to continue to torment thy waking conscience."

Benn clenched his jaw. Only he knew of his dreams, he'd not confided with anyone concerning them, good willed or bad. *But they can't be responsible for all the dreams.*

"Those of the waters are perishing, as thou hast seen," the Nameless confirmed. "For six nights thou hast seen them die. Sorcery is not our only great weapon. Flattery is our surest and stealthiest dagger in all kingdoms. Go to Sorcerion before the blood it draws is on your hands. The dead—" his words were caught by his faltering tongue, "but that is a revelation for another time. Do as Sorcerion *entreats*. Answer his entreaty ere it becomes command."

"Have I choice?"

"For a time."

Benn felt it more than anything; the Child of Sorcerion was gone. The daylight seemed stalled by his presence, but now shone brilliantly over Mariador. Benn always loved the morning for its unique light, but found himself appreciating it far more when it was untouched by the Warping Art. It did nothing to lay to rest his concerns with having personally spoken to a Child of the Colorless. *So the Four have been moving against us.* He hated being right under such uncouth circumstances, and he was sure anyone else of a conscience would have as well. *What awaits me at the Wild Isles, I wonder?*

Sorcerion—the Menace—would certainly do little to disquiet his concerns, and he wondered if he would ever sleep again after hearing the words of the Dark Artist himself. *It's worth looking into, and he might be moved to say something outside his will that will prove his downfall. If he kills me… Jes is certainly old enough to inherit the Seat.*

He had barely made up his mind on that matter when Naersellek shouted for help.

He grabbed his bow and bolted for the wall. Down in the courtyard was the bulky and corded Giant King whose only clothing was the loincloth straddled around his waist; wrought of

Continued on page 9

Why Does The Military Sing Cadence When Marching or Running?

By Xontippie Whittington

Cadences, sometimes commonly called "Jody" calls, are really popular in the military. They are very similar to folk tales and rhymes handed down through family culture, except they are part of military culture. They are oral stories recounted in the eyes of the person making the cadence. The songs are usually chanted by one person, whose team repeats the chant. This helps to build teamwork and fellowship. From personal experience you tend to stay in step (or what we call "dressed") with the cadence creating unity and speeding time by. When you're running or doing a long road march cadences takes your mind off the pain and suddenly you're looking forward to chanting your favorite part of the song. The rhythm is infectious. During times of war the cadence kept troops close, affected how fast they could travel, and synchronized them when firing. Below is one of my favorite cadences. I have five sisters, all who have served, with two of us being *jumpers* and one being considered a *jumpmaster*. So I love saying…

"Stand up, hook up, shuffle through the door…

Jump right out and count to four."

Important Financial Aid Facts!

by Korry Dunham

It's almost time for ALL Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) recipients to renew their FAFSA to receive money for future semesters. Many forget to renew their FAFSA and lose their scholarship for the entire year. Don't let this happen to you!! Renew your FAFSA beginning January 1, 2016 but BEFORE July 1, 2016.

The University of Alaska Foundation offers over 200 scholarships, many for Matanuska-Susitna College students but most do NOT apply. APPLY!!! The deadline for these scholarships is February 15 of each year. You will need to complete your FAFSA by this date for most of these scholarships. It's okay to do your FAFSA even if you have not done your taxes.

For more guidance about the above information, stop into Student Services and set up an appointment to meet with the MSC Financial Aid Staff. Jaclyn and Korry are here to make your financial aid world a little less confusing.

College Goal Alaska is a yearly event to give assistance with filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This event will be held in February, date and time to be announced. Check in with Student Services to find out the date of this event.

Career Assessments Demystified

By K.B. Holbrook III

At some point in time we all have to answer the questions, "What kind of job do I want?" and "Do I want to make a career out of it?" Answering the first question helps us be satisfied with the jobs we choose. Answering the second question helps us develop and grow into an expert in a vocation we can be proud of. It sounds simple, but for many of us answering these questions are far from simple. We often learn as young adults to be grateful to have a job that pays the bills, and so these questions get pushed to the side. Then you decided to come to Mat-Su College, and these questions became important again. For many students, this is when they come in asking about career assessments.

There is some confusion about what career assessments are and what they do. They are tools to help an individual generate good career options, not pick a career for them. It is also not possible to "fail" most career assessments. The two that I administer, the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Strong Interest Inventory determine preferences within the healthy range of personality types and determine interests and preferences that relate to work environments. This information is then used to create a career report that suggests occupations that those with similar personalities and interest have enjoyed. It's a tool to help narrow down the world of work into a number of options that would likely be a good fit. Often students find that they have already thought about some of the jobs suggested.

What is important to remember about different career assessments, is that they approach finding possible career matches in different ways. The Meyers-Briggs looks at personality type and matches it to careers that have been found to attract people with the same personality type. The Strong looks at occupational tasks, hobbies, school subjects, and the matches them to careers that people with the same interests enjoy. But other career assessments can look at an individual's best skills, their work values, and even aptitude. Each type has benefits and drawbacks, which is why we do an in person career report interpretation. It is very important to me that students know how to use their career assessment results as a tool and get to ask questions about anything that is unclear.

career assessments can look at an individual's best skills, their work values, and even aptitude

What is important to realize about career assessments is that they are often the first, but not the last step in choosing a career. Career assessments generate options, but it is still up to the individual to research the occupations and decide if they want to pursue it. The Alaska Career Information System, at AKcis.org, is a great place to do this research. AKcis includes local and national occupation information, such as salary, typical education, licensing requirements, etc. It is a free resource and one you can expect me to demo if you take the MBTI or Strong career assessments.

I hope that takes some of the mystery out of career assessments for our readers, and that maybe now you are more comfortable with the idea of taking one if you are unsure what you want to pursue in college or as a career. They are free to take if you are a student, and I administer the MBTI and Strong year round. All you need to do is call or drop by student services and tell our front desk you would like to take the career assessments. And if you are unsure if they would benefit you, come meet with me and we will talk about it.

Pocahontas in Alaska

By Rachel Goodall, Student Ambassador

Disney's Pocahontas -- we are all familiar with her! This is the voice of Irene Bedard, a true Alaskan! Yes, Alaskan! She was born and raised right here in Anchorage.

She graduated from West High with intent to become a star in Hollywood. Ms. Bedard attended the University of Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she studied musical theater.

Irene also is an Alaskan Native. She is role model for her own people as well as us Alaskans who want to go on into acting as a profession.

Matsu College is now offering classes in theatre! Check the class schedule for spring 2016.

Chicago: A Review

By Lori Leahy

If you missed the production of Chicago held at the Glenn Massay Theatre you missed a treat. The play was phenomenal. Beautifully led by seasoned director Grant Olson, it hit the ground running from the get-go and kept on moving. This performance had all the elements of a great play: great acoustics, wonderful acting, stunning music and vocals, humor, and fabulous professional-type dancing.

The original production, choreographed by Bob Fosse in 1975, ran on Broadway for two years but was revived in 1996 and holds the record for the longest running American musical in Broadway history. The musical is based on a play of the same name by reporter and playwright, Maurine Dallas Watkins, who the Chicago Tribune assigned to cover the 1924 trials of accused murderers Beulah Annan and Belva Gaetner.

In the play, Velma Kelly is a vaudeville performer who is accused of murdering her husband and her sister upon finding them in bed together. Roxie Hart is also thrown in jail for allegedly killing her lover, a customer at the bar where she works as a chorus girl. Roxie arrives at the women's block of the Cook County Jail to join Velma and the other accused murderesses, including Matron "Mama" Norton. Velma is none too happy to welcome her as Roxie simultaneously swipes not only the limelight, but Velma's lawyer, Billy Flynn (Ted Carney), an attention monger himself. Roxie takes over celebrity status in Chicago and the two women eventually team up when they realize that being rivals does them no good since there will always be a new sensational murder to steal the attention.

Each scene of this amazing one hour and 45 minute performance was filled with song backed by a remarkable eight piece orchestra. The vocals were fantastic, starting with "And All That Jazz" performed by Velma (Chantel Grover) and the other jailbird girls who graced the stage with sultry fishnet stockings and tight, black costumes. "Funny Honey," performed by Roxie (Katy Schmidt) with her confident voice and stage presence, and "When Your Good to Mama" belted out by Mama (Andrea Talbert,) were absolutely captivating.

The stage was cleverly comprised of a dramatic two story "jailhouse," set in black with red curtains, allowing the burlesque style choreographed dancers to move about the stage, at times waving feather fans and black boas. Simple café style tables and chairs for the other scenes were brought in as necessary for the other scenes. The show moved along in great fun and never missed a beat.

The performers for this production came from a variety of sources, as auditions were open to anyone in the community. Several of the actors in this lively performance are students here at Mat-Su College. Others are fairly seasoned regulars from Valley Performing Arts who are regular members of the community when not acting. Others are dancers who had never previously acted. The production ran from October 22 through October 31.

HE SEES YOU WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING,
HE KNOWS WHEN YOU LIFT WEIGHTS

HE KNOWS WHEN YOU'VE BEEN BAD OR GOOD,
SO GET TO THE GYM FOR HEAVENS SAKE!

Start your holiday season off right!

We have everything you need to get started! Exciting group exercise classes, like yoga, Barre 30, Oula, Zumba®, weight and cardio rooms, and an indoor running track. We also offer CrossFit, personal training and tanning. We are your full service gym.

Give yourself, or someone you love the gift of a happier, healthier you with...

30 days for ONLY $79!

Includes a customized training plan, one free tan, and three free CrossFit classes.

MTA Sports Center

907.746.7529 (7GO.PLAY)
WWW.MTASPORTSCENTER.COM

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

1507 N. DOUBLE B ST.
PALMER, ALASKA 99645
3/4 OF A MILE WEST OF TRUNK RD.
ON THE PALMER-WASILLA HWY

Happy Holidays

The Mat-Su Monitor Team

Editors
Sam Ouellette
Michelle Sharpe

Faculty Advisor
Micah Muer

Layout Artist
Audrey Badger

Feature Writers
Rebecca Barnes
Brian Conaway
Art Corvelay

Contributing Writers
Korry Dunham
Rachel Goodall
K.B. Holbrook
Tippy Wittington

Staff Writers
Lori Leahy
Nick Phillips
Michelle Sharpe

Photographer
Position Available

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed thoughrout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost, B/W	Cost, Color
1/8th page	$75	$125
1/4th page	$125	$175
1/2 page	$175	$225
Full page	$275	$300
Full page, back	Always color	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

Microsoft Office, for Free

By Art Corvelay

As a student affiliated with a UAA campus, you have free access to Microsoft's Office 365 website.

Office 365 offers browser-based versions of some the popular Office programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These lack a few features found in their desktop counterparts, but make up for that by saving your files to "the cloud" and by allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit the same document.

Better still, Office 365 users have the option to install the full versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Simply sign into Office 365 and click the "Install Now" button.

You can access Office 365 by visiting https://portal.office.com and signing in with your UA username followed by @ua.alaska.edu.

Students who want a free, no-strings-attached office suite that will be available long past their graduation should look at LibreOffice (https://www.libreoffice.org/).

tutor.com ALASKA STATE LIBRARY Live Homework Help

By Art Corvelay

It's 12:41 AM. Empty energy drink cans and candy bar wrappers litter your desk. You've just finished the last sentence of the last paragraph of your big paper – the one due at 9:00 AM. You hoped to get one of the college's Learning Resource Center's English tutors to read over it, but now it's too late. You're SOL.

Or maybe not.

Turns out all Alaska residents are eligible for live homework help through an online service called Tutor.com. These tutors can help with subjects ranging from Calculus to World History and nearabout anything in-between.

Using Tutor.com's services couldn't be easier. Just go to www.tutor.com/alaska, pick a subject, and then click "Connect Now." Within moments you will be able to chat with a real tutor; you can even share files for them to review or draw on a virtual whiteboard.

Still not convinced? Here's a few more selling points. Tutors are available from *every day of the* week from noon to 2 AM (goodbye, pants). The website actually works well. Tutoring is available to students from kindergarten to college. (Now somebody else can help your kids with their homework.) It's entirely free.

Convinced now? Good. Just don't forget about the college's Learning Resource Center; its tutors aren't available until 2 AM, but they're nice people all the same.

Math Cram Jam

The Math Department invites students to study with faculty.

Saturdays

Dec 5

9:00 - 2:00

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF MAT-SU COLLEGE'S LEARNING SERVICES.

Elizabeth J. Fallon Learning Resource Center*

OLB 121 745-9772 http://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/the-learning-center/tutoring/

WRITING

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 - 5:00
Thursdays 10:00 - 4:00

MATH

Mon / Wed 9:00-5:00
Tues / Thur 9:00- 5:30
Fri 10:00-3:00

BIOLOGY

Thur 1:00- 4:00

ASL

Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00 **FSM 205**

***Tutoring is available only for students enrolled n MSC courses Hours are subject to change Tutors available Sept 24 - Dec 11**

Online Tutoring:

UAA Consortium Library 1pm-midnight.Limited hours per student.

Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Hotline at tutor.com/alaska from 1pm-2am

www.tutor.com/military for military families who qualify

Khan Academy: Videos (math, science, economics, history) http://www.khanacademy.org/

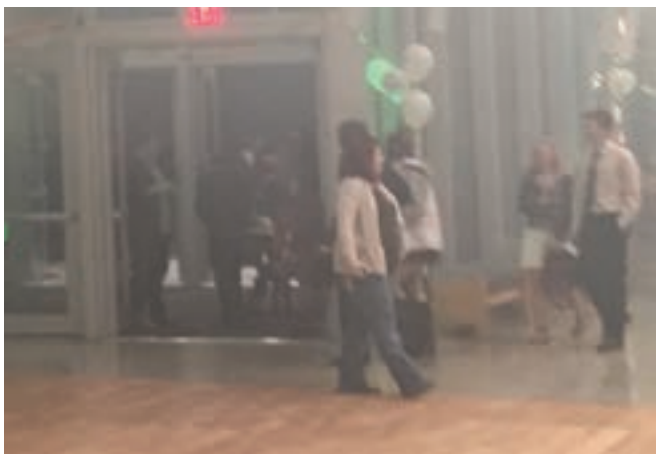
Foreign Language: http://libraries.mangolanguages.com/alaska/start (includes English)

Writing: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html
http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rules7e/#t_669460
http://www.paperrater.com/
http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/

The November 7th Dance of the Dead had something for everyone. Those with a special someone got loud music to dance to. Those without got candy. Candy in bowls, candy in tubs, candy in bags, candy in pinatas -- candy, delicious candy. (The reader can guess which camp this correspondent belongs to.)

A rough estimate would place attendance at perhaps 35 students and several faculty chaperones. The dance's smallish turnout helped achieve a casual, relaxed atmosphere, something accented by the Glenn Massay Theater's excellent lighting and the Dance Club's thoughtful decoration and set-up. Several participants were heard to remark that this was the college's best dance yet -- no small feat considering that it was also the only dance interrupted by a fire alarm.

This was the College's sixth dance in as many semesters. To help with organizing a seventh dance get involved with Dance Club.



Though the majority of the night was uneventful, the dance came to a momentary halt when the theater was evacuated due to the fog machine setting off fire alarms.

The Second King *continued from page 3*

the entirety of a white bear. An enormous mace made of pine trees swung over his head and came down in crashing splinters where Naersellek stood. In a tightly linked cage lay the Zalk, unconscious for having been dropped from the Giant's grip. Benn nocked an arrow while the Akaii warrior slashed at his feet in a frenzied dance. *Twang.*

The arrow was small, relatively, but it seemed to irritate the Giant enough. It had pricked him in his massive shoulder which was difficult to miss. Each opaque muscle seemed the thickness of the wall upon which Benn stood. Or rather, had stood.

He leapt from the wall and landed in the courtyard, away from the bronze toenail that might have impaled him had its owner not been occupied with the distractive Naersellek. The stench of the brutes feet might have choked Benn to death had they not stomped and jumped away after the taunting lizard-man. *Odd,* Benn observed, *how something so small can prove such a mighty nuisance.*

Naersellek glided on his feet around and under and around again the crashing mace of the thoroughly irritated Giant. Benn crouched behind some debris and shakily nocked another arrow. Inhaling what he guessed could be his last gasp of life, Benn was steady enough to fire the projectile into the Giant's cheek. As if pricked by a long splinter, the Giant bellowed anew, splattering dark drops of blood that landed in puddles just inches from where Benn was hiding.

The shout he made thundered between Benn's ears, and he had to cover them fast or else go deaf. Too late, he realized the moment he did. He felt the ground shake but failed to hear—

A dragon swept down like red lightning, blasting fire at the Giant. Both roars were mute to Benn, who watched with awe-stricken relief. The Warden had come, and with some help. Flanking him were two dragons ten times his size, with wings that blew up massive columns of dust, and thick, muscular chests. These dragons were from Exilos, and were less tame than the ones who reigned in the East. *They must be equally displeased if they ally with their cousins.* Within the walls of his mind, Benn sounded especially loud.

King Kuzuhhukkani fell backwards onto the stone floor, breaking it into fragments under his weight. His burnt and claw-scarred chest reeked. Benn winced while he drove his blade into it, turning his face away from the steam. The heat burned the better part of his right ear. Nevertheless, he didn't withdraw until the Giant heaved its very last sigh.

When he did the Warden was on the ground, a proud and mighty gold and red dragon. His name escaped Benn at the moment, but he was one of the half-brothers of the First King, Gashadious Authinaer. Dragons lived much longer than did humans.

The Warden was speaking with the circling North Dragons, bidding them farewell, though Benn couldn't tell until they flew off northward. Naersellek was cutting open the metal cage where the now barely conscious *Zalk* was mouthing a question.

The Warden was saying something to both of them, and Naersellek's face darkened at the news. He closed his eyes in remorse. The dragon turned and spoke to Benn, who could only stare blankly at him in incomprehension. "A War is starting that your kingdom must not take part in," were the first words he could make out. "The north people have erred too steeply. Return to Silvara and make strong again thine own kingdom." The *Zalk,* who was sitting on a piece of rubble, nodded in agreement. Naersellek cleaned his blade on a cloth, his face creased with resolve.

"Yes, Warden," Benn thought he said loudly. *But first I have business with the Menace who started it. I am so sorry, Elenyah. So sorry.*

Next Year: Benn pays a visit to the Dark Artist, where he hopes to discern the meaning of his dreams, and if the Menace possesses any knowledge of them.

YOUR STORY COULD BE HERE!

Write an interesting paper for a class? Experience something on campus that you want to share with others? Have a strong opinion about an issue? Just want to share a poem or short story? Now any student can submit content through the Monitor's webpage! Just Search "Monitor" on the college website to find it.

Scholorships *continued from page 1*

more times you apply, the more likely it is that they will choose you. Keep in mind that most scholarship deadlines are in the spring for the following year, so it is too late to get a scholarship for this year, but not too late to start applying for next year.

Thirdly, use the resources available. The Learning Resource Center offers free assistance in grammar and sentence structure for scholarship essays. Additionally, the Financial Aid department can assist you with writing your essay and proof it for content. They can guide you with where to place the emphasis of your information based on the rubric that is used for scoring the essays.

The main scholarship application the Financial Aid Office encourages is the University of Alaska application. This application canbeobtainedathttps://www.uaa.alaska.edu/scholarships/. The deadline is February 15. Once you have submitted an application, you will be automatically considered for other scholarships that have no additional requirements. The application includes a three question essay about yourself. The scholarship committee determines which student the scholarship goes to, based on what each applicant has written in his essay.

There are additional scholarships that you can apply for, such as the Native Foundation Scholarship, the MEA Scholarship, and the Mat-Su Foundation Scholarship, as well as others, but these may have extra requirements. Dunham suggests that if you are interested in applying to these you should go to the website and see what each scholarship's requirements are and if you meet them.

Most scholarships are good for only one year of tuition, so another application must be submitted each year. Some are renewable, but they will only allow you a certain amount of time to use the funding or you will lose it.

We're all busy being students, so writing an essay is probably the last thing you want to be doing in addition to all your schoolwork. But the time you spend doing this small bit of extra work could be the difference between paying for school yourself or someone else paying it for you. The money is there.

Go after it. You deserve it!

Mat-Su Monitor
December 2015

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. II you have a question you'd like to see answered, email it to sophia@matsu.alaska.edu or submit it in the Ask Sophia box in the cafe.

Q. Dear Sophia,
I pre-ordered Fallout 4 but somebody spoiled the ending.

A. Dear Friend,
Perhaps you should reconsider your friends, or stop going on the internet. Spoilers will not happen if you are aware of your surroundings.

Q. Dear Sophia:
I had a weird dream involving Mario World. What does this mean?

A. Dear Delirious Dreamer,
I've heard of a video game designers club on campus, perhaps you should check it out to make your dreams come to reality!

Q. Dear Sophia:
How should I support my sister when she is trying to help her boyfriend get through high school? Given that she is stressed about him actually graduating.

A. Dear Sister in Support,
I think the great thing you can do as a sister is to make sure your sister is able to fulfill her own responsibilities and duties, before supporting her boyfriend's. If she is having a hard time carrying out her responsibilities, that's when you can come in and help her get on the right track. As for her boyfriend, I would see if he is speaking to a school counselor at his high school to ensure he will graduate.

Military

P	U	E	X	S	T	C	X	F	G	B	M	L	Z	W	C	L	U
G	S	S	Z	R	H	O	T	E	I	V	O	S	I	A	R	D	S
R	N	N	Y	E	R	M	G	O	B	T	B	C	L	Y	O	E	A
A	A	I	K	R	Z	B	H	G	S	I	I	I	X	O	S	X	R
E	V	P	N	P	A	A	U	I	A	I	J	E	G	F	S	P	M
G	Y	E	H	I	Z	T	P	S	M	M	S	N	E	T	H	L	Y
D	W	R	F	A	A	A	I	R	A	K	Z	C	I	H	A	O	Y
A	S	D	R	K	T	R	J	L	N	I	A	E	R	E	I	S	S
E	T	D	W	I	Z	M	T	A	I	P	R	F	Q	G	R	I	D
H	E	V	N	J	X	S	T	A	S	M	F	F	V	U	J	V	R
T	L	E	G	E	H	F	U	A	P	B	S	O	O	N	J	E	A
A	L	E	T	O	O	T	S	K	B	M	O	U	C	R	D	S	C
N	U	C	T	D	O	A	W	I	N	D	O	W	S	U	C	P	C
K	B	G	L	R	N	E	M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E	S	E	I
S	U	R	I	S	U	B	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	G	U	N	G
N	O	S	P	R	O	C	E	N	I	R	A	M	T	Q	E	Z	A
W	L	O	V	C	E	P	O	C	S	R	E	S	A	L	F	K	M
E	I	B	R	R	U	F	C	H	E	M	I	S	T	R	Y	V	N

AUTO RIFLE
BIOHAZARD
BULLETS
CHEMISTRY
COMBAT ARMS
CROSS HAIR
EXPLOSIVE
FOCUS
FURRBIE
HEADGEAR
LASERSCOPE
MAGAZINE
MAGGOT
MAGIC CARDS
MARINE CORPS
NASA SPACE
PISTOL
SCIENCE
SHOTGUN
SNIPER
SUBMACHINEGUN
TANKS
TRAINING
US AIRFORCE
US ARMY
US MILITARY
US NAVY
WAY OF THE GUN
WINDOWS
WORLD OF TANKS

Thursdays
2:30 - 4:00
Glenn Massay Theater
on stage

Alaska Native Cultures Club
Mat-Su College

We meet **every Monday** 11:50am to 12:50pm
FSM 200 *(Art Gallery upstairs)*
STUDENT CLUB CALENDER on the Mat-Su website: http://matsu.alaska.eduOr e-mail us at: : MatSuANCC@gmail.com

Game Designers Club

Thursdays, 1:00-2:00
Fridays, 6:00-7:00
JKB 114.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY
11:50 - 12:50 FSM 105

UAA Accounting Club invites Mat-Su accounting students to join.
Meeting times vary. For more info go to http://www.uaaaccountingsclub.com

INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Are you interested in International Studies?
Are you an international student?
Join us in starting up the MSC International Club!
If you would like to learn more, please contact Dr. Galina Peck.
Email: gpeck@matsu.alaska.edu
Phone: 907-745-9734
Mat-Su College

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage
matsu.alaska.edu

You Tube

Register now

SPRING 2016